



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Kent Hance, Chancellor

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
1424 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neugebauer:

On behalf of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS), I respectfully ask for your support for funding in the amount of \$5.6 million in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill for the completion of the Texas Tech Parkway as originally envisioned. The City of Lubbock is a supporter of this request and will provide a portion of the matching funds.

The Texas Tech Parkway is an important arterial roadway to the City of Lubbock and to two TTUS campuses, Texas Tech University and TTU Health Sciences Center. It connects the North Loop 289 and the Marsha Sharp Freeway to two important medical centers, Covenant Hospital and University Medical Center, which has the only level 1 trauma center in the region. The Parkway and its associated intersections have created a safe environment for approximately 30,000 pedestrians, bicycles and vehicular traffic. The Arnett-Benson neighborhood, which includes one-fourth of the city's Hispanic population, has experienced better access to the community and local services since the opening of Texas Tech Parkway.

Funding for the Texas Tech Parkway was first authorized in the 1998 Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. Due to a reduction in the funding request, several safety, transit and joint-use additions were not completed in order to meet the budget. This request will provide for (1) full street illumination of the 2.5 mile roadway, (2) addition of two signalized intersections, (3) construction of four bus turn-outs with shelters, (4) completion of the planned joint-use, ADA-accessible pedestrian/bike paths, and (5) provide other improvements to the Parkway and adjoining roadways.

Completion of the Texas Tech Parkway will provide EMS and other emergency personnel with the controlled access necessary to approach UMC's emergency room safely and faster. Construction of four bus turn-outs with shelters will improve safety along the roadway and encourage the use of the federally funded park-n-ride lot and the intermodal transportation system. A new signalized intersection on 4th Street will improve access to the TTUHSC parking lots, clinics and the medical academic facilities, thereby reducing traffic congestion on the Parkway. Overall, completion of the Parkway will provide a more efficient movement of people and goods through the Lubbock urban area.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if I or my staff can assist you in any way.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Hance".

Kent Hance

